

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows, substituting any amended claim(s) for the corresponding pending claim(s):

1. (Currently Amended) A system for the on-line insertion of a line replaceable unit into a backplane of an item of electronic equipment, wherein said backplane comprises a common control bus and at least one of

- (a) one or more additional control buses,
- (b) one or more operations buses, and
- (c) one or more traffic buses,

said system comprising:

a primary master controller inserted into said backplane, said primary master controller capable of communicating via said common control bus of said backplane with said line replaceable unit when said line replaceable unit is inserted into said backplane;

wherein said line replaceable unit is partially powered but does not have full access to all buses in said backplane or access to full power when said line replaceable unit is first inserted into said backplane; and

wherein said primary master controller is capable of causing controls full access by said line replaceable unit to have full access to remaining buses in said backplane and to full power.

2. (Original) The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said primary master controller is capable of determining whether said line replaceable unit that is inserted into said backplane is ready for operation.
3. (Original) The system as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said primary master controller is capable of downloading at least one software update to said line replaceable unit to cause said line replaceable unit to be ready for operation.
4. (Original) The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said primary master controller is capable of causing said line replaceable unit to have access to full power in said backplane.
5. (Original) The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said primary master controller comprises an interface control processor card, and wherein said line replaceable unit comprises a circuit board card.
6. (Original) The system as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising a secondary master controller inserted into said backplane, said secondary master controller capable of performing the functions of said primary master controller when said primary master controller is not operating.

7. (Original) The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said primary master controller is capable of disconnecting full access of said line replaceable unit to said backplane after said primary master controller has caused said line replaceable unit to have full access to said backplane.

8. (Original) The system as set forth in Claim 7 wherein said primary master controller is capable of disconnecting full access of said line replaceable unit to said backplane by disabling power to all but common control power sections of said line replaceable unit.

9. (Original) The system as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising:

a circuit board card capable of being inserted into said backplane, said circuit board card comprising a hot swap power / in rush controller for regulating power to said circuit board card when said circuit board card is first inserted into said backplane;

a card processor on said circuit board card, wherein said card processor is capable of determining whether said circuit board card is located in a primary master controller slot of said backplane, in which case said circuit board card operates as a primary master controller; and

wherein said card processor is capable of determining whether said circuit board card is located in a secondary master controller slot of said backplane, in which case said circuit board card operates as a secondary master controller when said primary master controller is not operating.

10. (Original) The system as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising:

a circuit board card capable of being inserted into said backplane, said circuit board card comprising a hot swap power / in rush controller for regulating power to said circuit board card when said circuit board card is first inserted into said backplane; and

a card processor on said circuit board card, said card processor capable of determining whether said circuit board card is located in a non-master controller slot of said backplane, in which case said circuit board card waits for said primary master controller to cause said circuit board card to have full access to said backplane.

11. (Previously Presented) For use in association with a backplane of an item of electronic equipment wherein said backplane comprises a common control bus, one or more additional control buses, one or more operations buses, and one or more traffic buses, a method for the on-line insertion of a line replaceable unit into said backplane, said method comprising:

inserting a primary master controller into said backplane;

inserting said line replaceable unit into said backplane so that said line replaceable unit is partially powered but does not have full access to all buses in said backplane or access to full power when said line replaceable unit is first inserted into said backplane; and

controlling the access of said line replaceable unit to remaining buses in said backplane and full power with said primary master controller.

12. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising the step of:
determining in said primary master controller whether said line replaceable unit that is inserted into said backplane is ready for operation.
13. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 12 further comprising the step of:
downloading to said line replaceable unit from said primary master controller at least one software update to cause said line replaceable unit to be ready for operation.
14. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising the step of:
controlling the access of said line replaceable unit to full power in said backplane with said primary master controller.
15. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said primary master controller comprises an interface control processor card, and wherein said line replaceable unit comprises a circuit board card.
16. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising the step of:
using a secondary master controller to perform the functions of said primary master controller when said primary master controller is not operating.

17. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising the step of:
causing said primary master controller to disconnect full access of said line replaceable unit
to said backplane by disabling power to all but common control power sections of said line
replaceable unit.

18. (Currently Amended) For use in association with a backplane of an item of electronic equipment wherein said backplane comprises a common control bus, one or more additional control buses, one or more operations buses, and one or more traffic buses, a method for the on-line insertion of a line replaceable unit into said backplane, said method comprising:

inserting a circuit board card into said backplane;

providing a controlled power ramp up of partial power to said inserted circuit board card without activating connection of said inserted circuit board to any of said common control bus, one or more additional control buses, one or more operations buses, and one or more traffic buses;

determining whether a voltage rail has failed;

starting a reset timer;

running a power on self test on said inserted circuit board card;

determining whether said inserted circuit board card passed said power on self test; and

activating connection of said inserted circuit board to said a common control bus to determine whether said inserted circuit board or another circuit board inserted into said backplane should control access by the inserted circuit board to full power and to said one or more additional control buses, one or more operations buses, and one or more traffic buses.

19. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 18, said method further comprising the steps of:
 - determining whether said circuit board card is in a master slot of said backplane;
 - determining whether said circuit board card is a primary master controller if said circuit board card is in a master slot of said backplane;
 - operating said circuit board card as a primary master controller if said circuit board card is a primary master controller;
 - determining whether said circuit board card is a secondary master controller if said circuit board card is in a master slot of said backplane; and
 - operating said circuit board card as a secondary master controller if said circuit board card is a secondary master controller.
20. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 18, said method further comprising the steps of:
 - determining that said circuit board card is not in a master slot of said backplane;
 - waiting for a primary master controller to interrogate said circuit board card;
 - configuring said circuit board card with said primary master controller;
 - activating said circuit board card with said primary master controller; and
 - operating said circuit board card in normal operation.